

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-24, 26-43 are pending in the application; claims 4, 25 are canceled.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1 to 3, 24, 31 to 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Paptzun (US 4,226,428)*. Claim 1 has been amended by including the features of allowable claim 4 so that the above rejection no longer applies.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 36 to 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Paptzun (US 4,226,428)* and *Savoia (US 5,209,502)*. Claims 36 to 43 are believed to be allowable as dependent claims of amended claim 1.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 4-11, 14, 26-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended by including the features of allowable claim 4 and should thus be allowable with its dependent claims. Claims 12, 13, 15, 16 to 23, 34, 25 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate an e-mail from the examiner to discuss amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on April 13, 2006,


Ms. Gudrun E. Hockett, Ph.D.
Patent Agent, Registration No. 35,747
Lönsstr. 53
42289 Wuppertal, GERMANY
Telephone: +49-202-257-0371
Facsimile: +49-202-257-0372
gudrun.draudt@t-online.de

GEH

- 7 -

4/13/06: Amd for Ser. No. 10/605,954 - Inventor(s): Uhmer - Filing Date: 11/10/2003